

*In the Claims:*

Claims 1-11. Canceled

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for keeping a person warm ~~while in a tree stand,~~  
comprising:

a generally tubular length of material having an open end, ~~and a closed end, an~~  
inner surface, and an outer surface; ~~wherein said closed end includes a fastener for~~  
~~securing the apparatus to a base of a tree stand;~~

an elastic band encircling said open end; ~~and~~

a protective mat secured to the outer surface of the ~~said~~ closed end of the  
apparatus; and

a fastener attached to the protective mat for securing the closed end of the  
apparatus to an external surface.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a pockets in said  
tubular length of material at or near said open end.

Claims 14 - 18. Canceled.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said material is a wind-resistant material.~~selected from the group consisting of: nylon, polar fleece, parachute silk, Gore-Tex®, and Windstopper®.~~
20. (Currently Amended) A method of keeping a person warm while in a tree stand, comprising the steps of:
- (a) inserting one or both feet and legs into a generally tubular length of material having comprising:
    - an open end, and a closed end, an inner surface, and an outer surface; wherein said closed end is secured to a base of a tree stand by a fastener; and
    - an elastic band encircling said open end;
    - a protective mat secured to the outer surface of the closed end of the apparatus; and
    - a fastener attached to the protective mat for securing the closed end of the apparatus to an external surface; and
  - (b) pulling the open end of the length of material up to a desired height.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the wind-resistant material is chosen from nylon, polar fleece, and parachute silk.
22. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the inner surface is polar fleece and the outer surface is either parachute silk or nylon.